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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Geertrui Maria Wilhelmina HIBMA

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SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING NEWSPAPERS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying document, a copy of which is attached to this statement, is made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of this item is that in the newly-cited patent, the procedure for distributing the information to be reproduced in a material object, comprises a payment confirmation step between the server and the terminal at the point of sale location. Such a step requires an online connection during the sales transaction, and may generate additional costs for maintaining such a connection during opening hours.

By contrast, in the present invention, this inefficient step is omitted. Payment information is handled at a later stage and also the information product comprising periodical publications, is stored at the point of sale location, and only replaced at a given scheduled time when a fresh addition is available at the server.

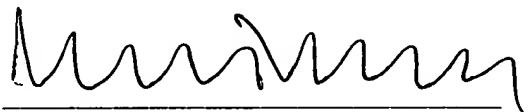
The cited reference relates to a system for reproducing information and material objects at a point of sale location, but it appears that this system manages sales of information content such as music or motion pictures and a material object such as an audio/video tape, or a floppy disc or phonograph records, eight-track tapes, reel-to-reel tapes, videodiscs, handheld calculators, electronic games, greeting cards, maps and sheet music. By contrast, the present invention sells periodical publications over a computer network, distributing such publications by a server to a temporary storage at the point of sale location when a fresh edition is available, and selling the edition to a customer by a remote terminal at the point of sale location.

It is believed that the claims now in the case adequately bring this out.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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